Nova Scotia Department of Education
Annual Accountability Report
For the Fiscal Year 2002-03

October 17, 2003

106-05064/

Table of Contents

Accountability Statement iii

Message from the Minister iv

1. Introduction 1

2. Department Progress and Accomplishments 1

   2.1 Departmental Goals 1

   2.2 Departmental Priorities and Accomplishments for 2002-03 1

3. Financial Results 14

4. Performance Measures 16

Accountability Statement

The accountability report of the Department of Education for the year ended March 31, 2003, is prepared pursuant to the Provincial Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Education business plan information for the fiscal year 2002-03. The reporting of Department of Education outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgements and opinions by the Department of Education management.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of the Department of Education management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Department of Education business plans for the year.

Hon. Jamie Muir
Minister

Dennis Cochrane
Deputy Minister

Message from the Minister

It is my pleasure to present to you the Department of Education's third Accountability Report. This document reports on the Department's activities undertaken to meet the goals and priorities identified in the *Department of Education Business Plan 2002-03*.

"To provide Nova Scotians with opportunities to learn throughout their lives, so they can continue to succeed in a rapidly changing world" was a strategic goal for the Government of Nova Scotia for 2002-03. This is reflected in the mission of the Department of Education. In 2002-03 we worked diligently to address the public's issues and concerns about public education in order to effectively enact this goal.

The Department released the *Learning for Life* Plan in the fall of 2002. It outlined action in seven key areas: focus on the early years, teaching basics first, more support for special education, safe and healthy schools, accountability to taxpayers, and informed, involved parents. *Learning for Life* set out a three year plan to help our students achieve success. Initiatives were undertaken to put the plan into action and are outlined in this Accountability Report.

Amendments to the *Education Act* in Spring 2002 were made to ensure stronger accountability, with controls and reporting lines in place. These amendments enhanced school board accountability to the public to ensure that dollars allocated to them for education are used in the appropriate manner.

Security and protection of students continues to be a concern for many parents. With the introduction of mandatory reference checks and a new model framework to prevent child abuse, discrimination and sexual harassment, our schools will be safer places for children.

Also in 2002-03, Education became the lead department for the Nova Scotia Skills Strategy. Effective collaboration with all skills partners offers both a challenge and an opportunity and is essential the development of this strategy. The Department of Education has launched several initiatives to engage business, industry, and labour and our federal partners to ensure that training and skills development helps to meet the needs of all Nova Scotians.

We realize that the public continues to be concerned about the high cost of post secondary education. The Department continues to support community colleges and universities through a variety of means including increased funding. Particularly worthy of note is the major investment of $123 million for the renewal of the Nova Scotia Community College.

In closing, education continues to be a dynamic sector integral to the Nova Scotia economy and remains a fundamental building block for Nova Scotians to become productive and contributing members of our prosperous society. With this in mind, my Department will continue to carry out those initiatives that will move us closer to achieving our goals and allowing all Nova Scotians to reach their potential.

1. Introduction

This Accountability Report provides information on departmental activities undertaken during 2002-03 to achieve the departmental goals, priorities and outcomes identified in the *Nova Scotia Department of Education 2002-03 Business Plan.*

The report is structured into three main sections. The first section reviews the departmental goals and priorities for 2002-03 and provides commentary on departmental accomplishments over the course of the year. The second section reviews the financial results, and the final section provides detailed information on the outcome measures and progress toward achieving departmental targets for these measures. Changes to the Department's outcome measures have been highlighted.

2. Department Progress and Accomplishments

2.1 Departmental Goals

The goals providing a focus to the actions of the Department of Education in 2002-03 were:

- to improve conditions for learning in the public education system
- to strengthen educational programming and services in priority areas
- to provide relevant and high quality post-secondary education and training
- to promote healthy, active learning communities and families
- to foster access, equity and diversity through and within education and training
- to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce
- to strengthen accountability in the areas of governance, resource investment and utilization, and reporting of results

The priorities that follow support these goals and the goals and priorities of Government.

2.2 Departmental Progress and Accomplishments for 2002-03

The following is a summary of the progress and accomplishments of the Department of Education in meeting Business Plan priorities. Additional items have been added to reflect the government's priorities for Education(*).

Core Business Area: P-12 Education

Youth Pathways and Transitions Strategy
Work on the development of a framework for Youth Apprenticeships was begun and related partnerships were established. Consultation with stakeholders and educators was conducted regarding Multimedia 12. The outcomes framework has been completed. Initial work of Geomatics 12 was undertaken. This priority will continue in 2003–04.

Increasing Learning Success
Currently, four pilot projects are underway in high schools in Halifax Regional School Board, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board and Tri-County District School Board. All sites have active working committees which are engaged in professional development and have identified focus areas to support at-risk students. Boards are working on a proposal to support other sites in the summer of 2004.

Professional Development Program: French as a second language
Université Sainte-Anne began offering a M.Ed. for teaching French as a second language in the fall of 2002. The program is presently offered in 2 regions of the province. Approximately 60 FSL teachers are enrolled.

The Information Economy Initiative in grades 4-6
Information Economy Initiative funding was allocated to school boards on a *per capita* basis. Approximately $2 million funded 33 additional technicians and approximately $2.4 million provided approximately 1000 additional computers, software and accessories to grades 4-6 classrooms. Funding was also provided to support teacher professional development across Nova Scotia with an emphasis on teachers in grades 4-6. It is notable that approximately 20% of professional development was provided outside the school day.

In cooperation with Industry Canada, Grassroots provided funding for 225 individual web based learning projects in 85 classrooms across Nova Scotia. In this period, 2882 computers were refurbished for use in schools and 414 computer systems refurbished for other approved clients such as libraries, First Nations schools and community literacy councils. Training was provided for 27 technicians in the Technology Work Experience Program.

Program of Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia (PLANS)
School Indicators Achievement Program (SAIP) Writing was administered in the Spring of 2002 and a public report with the results was published in 2003. Nova Scotia examinations were administered in June 2002 and January 2003 in English 12, English Communications 12, Mathématique 12, Mathématique avancées 12, Calcul différentiel et intégral 12, Chemistry 12, Chimie 12, and Physics 12. A Junior High Mathematics Program Assessment was administered to

all grade 8 students in June 2002. Development work on other assessments including the Programme of International Student Assessment and the Elementary Literacy Assessment continue.

Code of Conduct
Plans are currently being developed to combine Code of Conduct Guidelines implementation training with regional professional development in the Atlantic Provinces Educational Foundation (APEF) guide "Meeting Behavioural Challenges." A tracking and reporting template has been developed and Train the Trainer sessions on the Protection of Students Policy is planned for October 2003. A Complaints Resolution Process developed as part of the Guidelines.

School Capital Needs
The School Capital Construction Committee carried out an evaluation of school capital needs identified by school boards, and submitted a report to the Minister of Education in September 2002. The Department of Education developed a fiscal plan to address identified priority needs for consideration by Executive Council. Construction of previously approved projects continued. Two projects were completed, and an additional four were under construction during the 2002-03 fiscal year.

Database of School Renovation and Maintenance Needs
Work was carried out on major additions and alterations projects on six schools. In addition, the Department funded renovations projects to improve conditions of 40 other schools with a value of $2.8 million. School boards has been asked to identify current school facility needs. This process will continue into the 2003-04 fiscal year.

Teacher Certification Requirements
The teacher certification standards and requirements were reviewed and, on the basis of that review, a draft multilateral agreement was developed for consideration by the teacher certification registrars of the Atlantic Provinces.

Update Correspondence Study Courses
During the identified period, the following new courses were written and published to support correspondence study: Academic Mathematics 12, Academic Mathematics 11, English 12, Economics 11 (revised), English 10 (revised) and Physics 11. Discussions are on-going through APEF to develop and share online courses on a regional basis.

Provincial Student Education Council
The Department, through the Nova Scotia Youth Secretariat, provided support to PSEC through the Career Starts Internship Program and provided access to full time staff resources, meeting expenses and travel costs to facilitate its work.

Effective Classroom Practices Video
A video was completed and used during professional development sessions with Core French teachers.

Active Young Readers/Jeunes Lecteurs Actifs Initiative Grades Primary–6

The Department developed an Active Young Readers Administrators Resource for primary–6 schools. Additional learning resources were provided to all schools for grades primary–3 and 4–6. *An Active Young Readers Atlantic Canada Collection One* package and *Active Young Readers Resource Support: Grades 4–6* package were provided to all schools.

The *Active Young Readers: Grades 4–6 Assessment Resource* was designed and developed. The resource will be completed and distributed in October 2003. The Department has continued its participation in the development of a grade 4-6 literacy assessment resource. The resource will be completed in January 2004. French literacy resources were provided to schools offering grades 4 to 6 French Immersion programs.

Active Young Readers/Jeunes Lecteurs Actifs Initiative for Grade 7 Students
An implementation workshop for *Active Young Readers 7* was conducted for 100 teacher leaders. Resources provided included 104,085 student books and professional resources for administrators, and resource teachers. All grade 7 teachers had two days of professional development. Additional workshops were provided for P–6 and grade 7 literacy teams. Three summer institutes were held.

Writers in Action Initiative
All grade 4 French Immersion students received a reference copy of the *Writers in Action Handbook*. Parents of grade 4 students received a Writers in Action pamphlet. Classroom resources were provided for grades 4, 5, and 6 classrooms. Grade 4 teachers received a professional resource. An implementation workshop was conducted for 87 teacher leaders. All teachers in grades 4–6 participated in a one-day professional development program.

"Écrivains à l'oeuvre"
The *Writers in Action / Écrivains à l'oeuvre* initiative is designed to increase emphasis on grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation and ensure that students have access to structured, sequential language instruction. *Writers in Action/Écrivains à l'oeuvre* includes the provision of student handbooks; additional resources for classroom writing centres; teaching materials; and professional development programs.The initiative was introduced in 2002–03 for grade 4 and is expanding to grade 5 in 2003–04 and grade 6 in 2004–05.

Curriculum Guides and Identification of Learning Resources for French First Language Core Programs
The following curriculum guides and supplements were completed and distributed to teachers: Core French 10 to 12; French Language Arts - Late Immersion 7 to 9; Histoire du Canada 11 Immersion /Extended Core French; English Language Arts - Grade 3 French Immersion; Document d'appui - Jeunes lecteurs actifs M à 3.

Grades Primary and 1 Atlantic Canada Science Curriculum
An implementation workshop was conducted for 80 teacher leaders. A summer institute was conducted. All grades primary and 1 teachers had a one-day science in-service program. Books and teachers' resources were provided for grades primary and 1. Grade primary science resources were provided for each school. Hands-on science materials were also provided. Curriculum guides for grades primary and 1 were provided for all teachers.

CurriculumLinks Initiative
Grades primary–1 teachers received a one-day in-service program on CurriculumLinks. Work began on the development of *ScienceLinks Grades Primary–2: A Teaching Resource*. Classroom resources were provided to support literacy/numeracy connections.

Mathematics Priority
Thirty-two workshops were provided for 880 school-based math leaders. Boards received targeted funding to implement the mathematics strategy. Draft grade-level-specific teaching resources for mathematics were distributed for grades primary–9. Development of a databank was undertaken and the Administration Module was completed. Mathematics 10 Plus and Mathematics Foundations Plus 10 pilots continued and research completed. Resources will be identified to support implementation of these new course options in 2003-04.

Canadian History Credit Requirement
Histoire du Canada 11 Immersion /Extended Core French was implemented in September 2002. The French translation of the curriculum guide was distributed to schools in February 2003. An implementation leadership workshop was conducted for 80 teacher leaders. Twenty teacher leaders were sponsored to attend an eight-day institute. Eighteen teacher leaders received training as workshop facilitators. Resources were provided to all Canadian History 11 students and teachers and curriculum guides for all eligible courses were provided to teachers. Grants were provided to boards to support implementation.

Software Career Preparation Project
The Department participated in meetings concerning the Software Human Resource Council Information Technology Support Associate needs assessment initiative. The IT Career Preparation curriculum was analyzed and evaluated.

Projects for Acadian Schools.
The development of a literacy assessment resource for grades 4 to 6 French Immersion students is on-going.

Supplementary Funding under the Official Languages in Education Program
The Department will be negotiating with Canadian Heritage for Supplementary Funding under the Official Languages in Education Program. The Department has several initiatives to propose and a submission for funding has been made.

Print and non-print Resources and Archival Photographic Service for Museums
1,191 original still images were produced in support of the programs of the Nova Scotia Museum and the Department of Education, together with some 487 conventional prints, and 1,011 electronic images.

ESL Teacher's Resource
Guidelines have been completed and a reading assessment tool is currently being printed. A summer institute was held to begin implementation of these resources with 30 teachers in attendance. In-service training for school boards is planned for the third week of November.

Active Healthy Schools Strategy
The Department provided in-service workshops to support board and school implementation of physical education curriculum. Two boards received resources to support implementation of grades 7–9 physical education as part of a three-year strategy. A workgroup including the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and university representatives was established to develop the curriculum outcomes framework for grades 10–12. Development of modules for grade 10 has begun.

Partners on Intergovernmental Projects
Results of the Physically Active Children and Youth Research Study were communicated to boards and implications were examined. Program grants were provided to support an Active School Community pilot in each board. The Department supported a *Healthy Eating and Physical Activity* resource study in grades 5–8.

The Department assisted in the revision of three *Smoke Free for Life* curriculum supplements for health education grades primary–3, 4–6, and 7–9. The Department supported boards in their implementation of tobacco use policies, tobacco education, and anti-smoking initiatives including the *No More Butts* program. The Department provided services to the NS School Smoking Prevention Coalition and to boards to support completion of Making It Work!

Safety Initiatives
Physical Education Safety Guidelines were released in 2002-2003 and the Department provided services to boards to support their implementation and related professional development sessions for physical education teachers. The implementation draft of Science Safety Guides was distributed in November 2002. Meetings were held with all school boards to examine implications of these guidelines.

New Curriculum for Health Education
A *Health Education: Grades 4–6* implementation workshop was conducted for 65 teacher leaders. *Drawing the Line, Volume III: Grades 4–6* was distributed to all schools. This resource, together with *Growing Up, Growing Older*, *Second Step*, and *Smoke Free for Life*, was featured at the workshop. New curriculum was developed for Health/Personal Development and Relationships: Grade 7 and related resources identified.

Availability of School Facilities for Purposes Other Than Education
Development of the policy framework has been completed, and school boards have been asked to review their present policies and identify changes that would be needed to fit within the framework.

Key Recommendations of the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) Report on Education
The Department continued to work toward the establishment of an Africentric Learning Institute and implementation of other key recommendations of the *Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) Report on Education*. The development of Mi'kmaq language courses at the junior high level will continue.

Racial Equity Policy
A Human Rights in Education Conference was held in the fall of 2002 to highlight and raise awareness of issues outlined in the Racial Equity Policy. Grants are available to school boards to implement the policy and evaluations of grant proposals will be carried out in Spring 2004.

Workplace Health and Safety curriculum for grade 11
Workplace Health and Safety 11 pilots were completed. Summer institutes were conducted and an implementation workshop was held for 52 teacher leaders. Resources were provided teachers and a classroom set of learning resources and demonstration equipment was provided to every high school.

A New Governance Model Pilot in the Southwest Regional School Board
During 2002-03, structural changes were made to strengthen governance of the educational function in South Shore and Tri- County districts. In April 2002, Government extended the pilot model to the Strait region in light of financial irregularities that had come to light during 2001-02. These pilots will continue until fall 2004, to coincide with next school board elections. Pilot boards will be consulted about the impact of the pilot structure on their operations and goal achievement.

School Advisory Councils professional development opportunities
School Advisory Council members were invited to participate in some professional development opportunities provided by school boards. The Department has committed to undertaking a review of SACs in 2003-04 to ensure that parents have a meaningful voice in their children's education.

The Minister's Report to Parents
The 2nd annual Minister's Report to Parents has been published including a summary of results for provincial, national and international assessments administered in 2002.

Pilot Projects in School Accreditation
The first phase of the project involved eight schools. During the 2002-03 school year, the schools undertook an internal review of student and school performance to help the individual schools establish their school improvement plan goals. The school's internal review and the school improvement plan will be reviewed by an external team of educators. The first eight schools will implement their school improvement plans in 2003-04. A second phase of the project involving eight additional schools will commence in September 2004.

Standard Report Card
Pilots were conducted in school boards and consultations held with teachers and parents in pilot schools. Recommendations will be developed regarding frequency of reporting and on other communication strategies. A committee was established to study technology issues and solutions.

A Time to Learn Strategy

Guidelines for Instructional Time: Grades Primary–6 were published in September 2002. New time requirements for language arts and mathematics were implemented in September 2002 for grades primary–6. Guidelines on instructional time for grades 7 and 8 are being developed for implementation in 2004–05.

Core Business Area: Higher Education and Adult Learning

Comprehensive Labour Market Strategy

The labour market strategy comprises four elements:

1. development of a comprehensive Skills Nova Scotia Strategy
2. creation of a Partners Forum for labour market advice
3. development of labour market information products and services
4. funding mechanisms to support strategic investment

1. In the spring of 2002, the Department was designated as the lead for skills. A Skills Nova Scotia Working Paper was released for consultation as a follow up to the first Premier's Forum on Skills in June 2002. Public consultations were held in July and August concerning the government's framework for labour market skills development. In the summer of 2002, a multi-department/agency Labour Force Planning Committee was formed. The *Skills Nova Scotia Framework* and *2002-2003 Action Plan* was released in January 2003. The Skills Nova Scotia Annual Progress Report for 2002-2003 was begun. A new Skills and Learning Branch was established in October 2002 in the Department.
2.The process to initiate the Partners' Advisory Council on Workforce Skills (PAC) began with a call for membership nominations in February 2003. The PAC will provide advice and guidance on current skill development and labour market issues, and future trends to the Deputy Minister's Committee on Skills and the Minister of Education.
3. A new edition of *Career Options: An Occupational Handbook for Nova Scotians* (print and internet versions) was released and *Career Options: A Guide to Nova Scotia's Changing Labour Market* was distributed to all Grade 9 students in the province. A series of labour market outlook publications were produced and distributed including *Labour Market Outlook*, *Industrial Outlook* and *Occupational Outlook*. A federal/provincial Labour Market Information Committee was created with a mandate to develop a coherent and coordinated approach tot he collection, analysis and delivery of labour market information in Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia Advisory Board on Colleges and Universities

A Discussion Paper was finalized raising twelve issues for consultation with the universities and community colleges and other post-secondary education stakeholders. The Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) and the Minister agreed to work on an MOU for a rolling three year funding commitment in exchange for the institution's support and participation in the consultation process. This commitment was positively received by CONSUP.

Merging of Université Sainte-Anne and Collège de l'Acadie

Université Sainte-Anne and Collège de l'Acadie have merged and the federal and provincial governments have agreed to fund the institution based on a five-year business plan.

Nova Scotia Community College Growth Strategy

In late March 2003, the Province announced a $123 million, seven-year expansion for the Nova Scotia Community College, to include the construction of a new Metro campus to replace the Bell Road campus and renovations at the remaining campuses. The intent of the growth strategy is to increase student enrolment by 2,500 students.

Private Career Colleges Regulation Act
The review of the General Regulations made pursuant to the *Private Career Colleges Act* was completed. It was determined that the Regulations do not require amendment at this time.

The Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning (NSSAL)
NSSAL provided over $3.3 million in funding to support Adult Learning Program (Level 3 and 4) and public school program credits (Grades 11 and 12) leading to the Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma for Adults. More than 1,800 adults were enrolled and over 400 received their diplomas. NSSAL provided $2.5 Million to community-based programs for adults (at Level 1 and 2). Approximately 40 programs served over 2,100 learners. Curriculum development and revision took place for Levels 3 and 4. An electronic Student Information and Management System (SIMS) was developed to be implemented in 2003-2004.

Community Learning Initiative
Six workshops were held to introduce learner intake assessment tools and learner portfolios to 120 adult literacy practitioners, in partnership with the Cape Breton Literacy Network. Seven workshops were held concerning Decision Making Tools for Literacy Networks to 120 adult literacy practitioners, in partnership with the West Hants Learning Network. The Department worked with the National Literary Secretariat and Human Resources Development Canada to secure funding for communication and professional development projects for the NSSAL regional planning teams.

New Test Series for General Education Development 2002
The new test series for GED 2002 was fully implemented, including new test administration procedures and contractual arrangements with the scoring service in Oklahoma. There are no Canadian services currently available.

Family Learning Initiative Endowment Fund Project Opportunities
Eight projects were funded in 2002-2003 through the Family Learning Initiative Endowment Fund, in partnership with the Halifax Youth Foundation. A family literacy project was conducted in partnership with the Colchester East Hants Regional Library. Funding was received from the National Literacy Secretariat in September 2002. A project team has developed "good practice" guidelines and initiated an action plan for advancing family literacy in Nova Scotia.

Read to Me!
The program was established in three sites: IWK Health Centre, the Cape Breton Regional Health Care Complex, and the Yarmouth Regional Hospital. Plans were initiated to expand to other hospitals starting with St. Martha's Hospital in Antigonish. The Emergency Room component was launched in January 2003 - the first program of its kind in Canada. Volunteers read to children in the IWK emergency waiting area. A CD of children's lullabies and a video were

produced. In addition, the Mi'kmaq and francophone gift bags were developed with work underway to develop a French video.

Consumer Health and Wellness Information
The Alzheimer Society placed additional materials in regional libraries during the year and also recommended additional materials for library collections. The success of this partnership has generated discussions with other health organizations. Breast Cancer Action Nova Scotia has received funding from the IWK External Grants Program for a project which will include donations of materials to regional libraries, and promotion of regional libraries as sources of consumer health information.

The Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program
The Adopt-a-Library Literacy program is now active in three regional libraries. Partnerships and funding sources to support the foundation are still being investigated. This program provides funding support for other initiatives, such as the summer children's writing camps.

Summer Reading Program Week Long Day Camp
A very successful children's writing camp was held in the New Glasgow branch of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library in the summer of 2002. The four-day camp included 16 participants aged 10-13. Camp instructors included established writers and Writers Federation of Nova Scotia staff. The Camp repeated in summer of 2003 with a waiting list of children wishing to attend.

Student Assistance in Nova Scotia
A new Debt Reduction Program was developed and received Cabinet approval, in August, 2003. The Royal Bank agreement to finance the Nova Scotia Student Loan Program was extended for one year, ending July 2003. Cabinet approved in principle a new Designation Policy and instructed staff to undertake further consultations with stakeholders.

Renew Training Standards in Apprenticeship Programs
Four standards were approved, revised or drafted at the Atlantic level. Course-based delivery for three additional trades was packaged in Nova Scotia. Two other course-based programs were repackaged to meet industry needs. An additional 20 courses became available through internet delivery. Part-time customized study programs were developed for over 50 active apprentices.

Employability Assistance for People with Disabilities (EAPD) initiative
Over the summer of 2002 this program provided employment to 37 students with disabilities, through cost-sharing with the private sector.

Virtual Library Initiative
A "virtual" library has been implemented in every public library in the province.

Apprenticeship and Trades Qualifications Act
Public consultations were held across the province in April 2002. A draft report was completed in June and released in December 2002, entitled *Apprenticeship: Achieving Excellence through*

Partnership. The report has 25 recommendations which will be reviewed and an action plan developed in the next fiscal year. The new Act was also drafted.

Industry Validation for all Apprenticeship Examinations
A process for industry validation of Records of Occupational Progress, training standards and examinations was implemented. Two Records of Occupational Progress were validated and four more drafted. Four examination item banks and three levels examinations were validated or revised. Industry consultations were held with several trade sectors to review and validate Atlantic training standards, course-based delivery standards and discuss training requirements

Interprovincial Computerized Examination Management System
The Interprovincial Computerized Examination Management System (ICEMS) was tested and downloading of IP examinations began in the fall of 2002. Implementation of Release 1 took place in November. Training for Release 2 was held in March 2003. System tests were ongoing. New IP examinations were implemented for 28 trades. National Occupational Analysis of industry validation for 10 trades are underway.

Province's Changing Labour Market
The priorities of the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) going into 2002-2003 included Youth, Information Technology, Literacy, and Employability. In September 2002, the initiation of a federal and provincial skills agenda led to the identification of new skills priorities and the renewal of the governance structure of the LMDA. Key areas were identified for joint work: Apprenticeship, Learning and Earning, Employability, Career Development and Employment Counselling, Labour Market Information, Immigration, Literacy, Information Technology and Entrepreneurship. In October 2003, four federal/provincial working groups were established to draft policy papers which were presented in December 2002. In January 2003, a working group was struck to develop a new governance structure for the LMDA. By March 2003, a governance structure for the Canada-Nova Scotia Skills and Learning Framework which encompasses the LMDA was created.

The Federal/Provincial Youth Committee continues with a mandate to coordinate the implementation of the Canada-Nova Scotia Protocol on Youth Employment.

Through the Workplace Education Initiative, funds were provided for 111 essential skills programs for more than 1000 workers, involving 81 companies, to assist in managing technological change and increased skill demands.
Six pilot projects were funded under the Older Worker Pilot Project Initiative. This initiative, funded by HRDC, targets workers aged 55-64 and is designed to reintegrate displaced workers threatened with displacement.

Learning Plan Development Process for Apprentices and Trade Qualifiers
Assessment tools for 8 trades were developed. An interview and feedback process was developed in August 2002. Evaluating Academic Readiness for Apprenticeship Training (EARAT) pilots were held in the summer and fall of 2002. Pilot programs were undertaken in 2 trades and a third pilot is planned. Development of a trades-specific math refresher program was initiated.

The Nova Scotia Advisory Board on Colleges and Universities

The NSABCU has made suggestions to the NSCC on the accountability measures to be used in their next five year review and refinements to these measures will be developed on a mutually agreed upon basis.

**** Energy Industry Experience***

An Offshore Operations Program was developed for delivery from the Marconi Campus of the NSCC to provide critical industry experience to post-secondary students. The program is offered in partnership with Encana, Ocean Rig and JD Irving and is designed to meet the needs defined by industry. The industry partners will jointly recruit students for the program and provide offers of employment for the graduates. Intake will commence in the fall of 2003.

**** Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust Fund***

The Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust Fund was set up with $15 million. In 2002-03, $4.3 million was awarded in matching funds to 33 Canadian Foundation for Innovation approved projects, leaving a balance of approximately $11 million for allocation in the coming year(s). No data is yet available to quantify the impact of these projects on further private sector investment and contracts, the retention of highly qualified personnel and innovation spinoffs.

Core Business Area: Corporate Policy

Education Consultative Forum (ECF) Subcommittee on Teacher Demand and Supply

In response to the Report of the ECF Subcommittee on Teacher Supply and Demand, the Department coordinated an early hiring job fair for school boards to conduct early hiring in the subject shortage areas. Through this process, 99 graduates were hired by Nova Scotia school boards.

Also in response to the Report, it was determined that a more in-depth analysis of the substitute pool would provide important information about substitute teachers' intentions, aspirations and circumstances regarding employment in Nova Scotia. In the winter/spring 2002-03, a survey of substitute teachers was conducted to gather this information. Analysis will be undertaken in the spring/summer of 2003/04. The goal of the survey is to obtain information to support improvements in the utilization of the substitute teacher workforce.

Immigration Framework Agreement

Negotiations are almost complete on a new Immigration Framework Agreement with the federal government. This Agreement will more clearly define roles and responsibilities between the federal and provincial governments, facilitate closer collaboration in the development of immigration policies appropriate to the province's needs, and will support joint planning efforts to meet immigrant settlement needs in Nova Scotia.

Core Business Area: Corporate Administrative Services

Integrated Data Management Project

Phase 1 of the IDMP, involving finance and procurement, became operational in all seven regional school boards in April 2002. During 2002-03, the system was used to support financial management of the regional boards and generate regular monthly financial reports for board

operational purposes as well as monthly financial reports to the Department, and year end financial statements. The system will be used to generate comparable information among school boards. A business support unit was established within the Department of Education to provide support to the system and to ensure consistency of information.

New Financial Handbook to Guide School Boards

The Department reviewed and drafted revisions to the Regional School Board Financial Handbook. These revisions were reviewed with regional school board staff and Department of Finance staff. These consultations identified a number of issues to be resolved and the Department will continue to address these issues in 2003-04. The new Handbook will be implemented in 2004-05.

New Human Resources and Legal Services Division

In 2003-2003, the Human Resources and Legal Services Branch became fully operational. The Department and school boards are now able to access a full range of HR and HR-related legal services. The Branch concluded the new Teachers Provincial Collective Agreement with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, promoting labour stability in the education system into 2005.

Review of Consolidating School Board Audit and Payroll Processing

The Province, in partnership with the all regional school boards, introduced the *e: merge* project to examine potential common payroll processing systems. The implementation of a common system is tentatively scheduled for April 2004.

The Department, school boards and the Nova Scotia School Boards Association completed implementation of the SAP finance, procurement, and business warehouse systems across all boards and the Department of Education. In addition, planning and scoping work has been completed on the plant maintenance module and is currently underway on student information systems.

3. Financial Results

Budget Context

An analysis of the variance from budget to actual expenditures reveals the following:

Current Expenditures	2002-03(E)	2002-03(A)	Variance
Education	$928,733,000	$930,204,997	($1,471,997)
Assistance to Universities	201,732,000	206,762,000	(5,030,000)
Total	$1,130,465,000	$1,136,966,997	($6,501,997)

Restated on the basis of the department's core business areas, the following variances occurred.

Current Expenditures	Budget 2002-03 ($ 000s)	Actual 2002-03 ($ 000s)	Variance ($ 000s)
Senior Management	$386.0	$384.8	$1.2
Corporate Policy	2,320.0	1,976.7	343.3
Primary to 12	812,807.3	815,653.0	(2,845.7)
Higher Education	230,704.0	234,114.8	(3,410.8)
Skills and Learning	78,798.0	79,425.5	(627.5)
Administration and Support	5,449.7	5,412.2	37.5
Total	$1,130,465.0	$1,136,967.0	($6,502.0)

Sources of the major variances from budget are as follows:

Higher Education ($3,410,800)
The major source of this over expenditure was the planned allocation of $6,030,000 additional corporate resources to university funding.

These expenditures in excess of budget were offset by identified savings of $1,619,000 in Interest and Risk Premium in Guaranteed Student Loans, and increased recoveries of $1,000,000 from other Maritime provinces associated with Assistance to Universities.

Primary to 12 ($2,845,700)

Additional costs of $ (2,099,000) were incurred as a result of increased rates and premium associated with the NSTU Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance premiums. Additional over expenditures of $(1,548,000) were incurred as a result of funding a school board deficit, and funding provided to address regional school board transportation and facility issues.

Additional expenses of $(1,596,000) were incurred as facility repair costs did not met accounting criteria to be charged as capital expenditures.

These over expenditures were offset by operating costs of leased schools being $1,110,000 less than budgeted as contract price escalators were lower than anticipated. Further savings were achieved as amortization charges were $1,829,000 less than budgeted when completion dates were delayed as a result of adjusting completion priorities.

Skills and Learning $(627,500)
Additional funding of ($ 565,000) was provided to support the merger of Collège de l'Acadie/Université Sainte-Anne[1].

Please Note: Detailed summaries and calculations of variances are not provided, but are available from the department. The purpose of this narrative is to identify only the major reasons for variances from budget

4.0 Performance Measures

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT INDICATOR PROGRAM

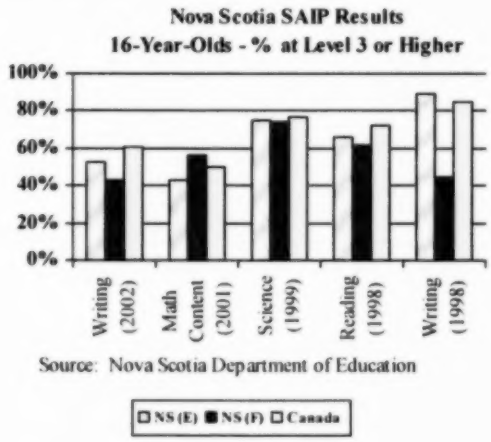
One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The results of the School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) are some of the measures that fall within the core business area, "Better Educated Nova Scotians."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

SAIP assesses 13- and 16-year-old students in mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The data reported below are based on the results of 16-year-old students only. These students have had the longest exposure to the Public School Program in mathematics, reading, science, and writing. SAIP, a national assessment, has five levels of performance. Each level has a description of student performance. The national standard for the performance of 16-year-old students is set at level 3. This measure presents the percentage of Nova Scotia students achieving level 3 or higher.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The 2002 results of Nova Scotia English and French students in SAIP writing were below the national average. In 2001, our 16-year-old English students math content results were below the national average, while the French student results were above the national average. In 1998, the Nova Scotia results for reading were below the national average. For science, the results in 1999 for Nova Scotia and Canada were fairly close. The 2002 "writing instrument" used in 2002 varied a great deal from the "writing instrument" used in 1998. According to SAIP documents, it is not appropriate to compare the periods of 1998 and 2002.



Source: Nova Scotia Department of Education

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target is for the results of the reading assessment to increase to 72% of 16-year-old students being at level 3 or higher by the 2005 assessment. The 2002 assessment results for writing are targeted to be higher than those in 1998. The target for the mathematics results for English students is 50% in the 2006 assessment, and the results for French students are targeted to increase. The results of the 2004 science assessment are targeted to be higher than the results of the 1999 assessment. Several activities undertaken in 2001-02 are expected to help students achieve, such as *Active Young Readers/Jeunes Lecteurs Actifs, Writers in Action/Écrivains à l'oeuvre, Reading Recovery*™, the Time to Learn strategy, and the provision of teacher resources and professional development. The *Minister's Action Plan: Building Quality, Standards, and Accountability in Education* outlines a number of initiatives to help improve student performance.

PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The results of the Programme of International Learning Assessment (PISA) are some of the measures for a desired outcome that fall within this core business area, "Better Educated Nova Scotians."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The average score for all countries in PISA is 500. This measure compares the performance of Nova Scotia with the performance of the international community in reading, mathematics, and science.

PISA assesses 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics and science, and was administered for the first time in the spring of 2000. Thirty-two countries and all the Canadian provinces participated in PISA in 2000.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

For PISA reading and PISA science, Nova Scotia English students performed higher than the international average, while Nova Scotia French students performed below the international average. The results for Canadian 15-year-old students were higher than Nova Scotia's results.

PISA Results, 2000
15-Year-Old Students

	Reading	Mathematics	Science
Nova Scotia (English)	522	513	517
Nova Scotia (French)	474	508	466
Canada	534	533	529
All Countries	500	500	500

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Education

For PISA mathematics, the results for both Nova Scotia English and French students were higher than the international average, and lower than the results for Canadian students.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

This is the first time Nova Scotia participated in PISA. These data will be used as baseline data for the results of the next administration of PISA in 2003. As identified in the previous measure there are a number of initiatives being undertaken to help improve student performance.

NOVA SCOTIA EXAMINATIONS

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The results of the Nova Scotia Examinations (NSE) are some of the measures for a desired outcome that fall within the core business area, "Better Educated Nova Scotians."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

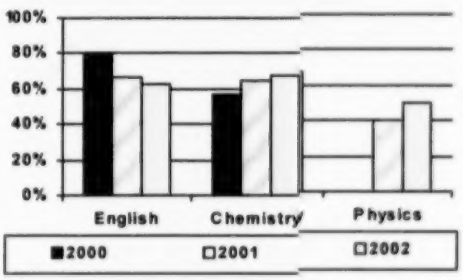
NSE are administered to grade 12 students in English language arts and the sciences. The passing mark for NSE is 50%. This measure informs us about the percentage of students who achieve a passing mark in English 12, Chemistry 12, and Physics 12.

NSE are based on the Atlantic Canada curriculum. The current measures are for students in English boards only, including French immersion.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The percentage of grade 12 Nova Scotia students achieving a passing mark on NSE are as follows: English 12 — 63% in 2002, down from 67% in 2001; Chemistry 12 — 68% in 2002, up from 65% in 2001; and Physics 12 — 50% in 2002, up from 40% in 2001.

Nova Scotia Examinations 2000 & 2001 - Grade 12 Results



Source: Nova Scotia Department of Education

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target for 2004-05 is that 70% of grade 12 students will achieve a passing mark on NSE for English 12, 70% for Chemistry 12 and 60% for Physics 12. As identified in the SAIP measure there are a number of initiatives being undertaken to help improve student performance. Beginning in January 2004, two grade 12 mathematics courses will be added to the schedule.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The high school graduation rate is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within the core business area, "Better Educated Nova Scotians."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The graduation rate is the percentage of students receiving a high school graduation diploma compared with the number of students in grade nine three years earlier.

Education is a key variable in improved employment prospects and higher earnings. The successful pursuit of further education depends upon high school graduation. This is the foundation upon which an individual's future success is built.

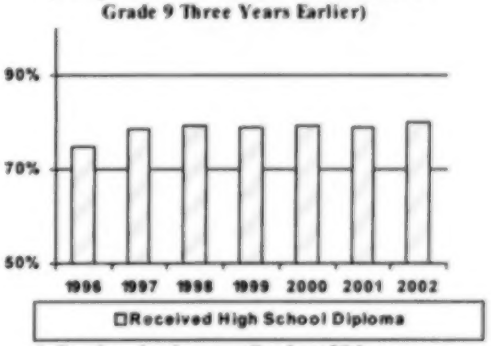
WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The 1999-00 graduation rate was higher than that reported in 1995-96, 79.1% versus 74.9, respectively.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target is to have this percentage continue to increase. Senior high students can choose course options that are consistent with their post-secondary plans, be they university, community college, trades, or the job market. It is expected that having opportunities to prepare for the various post-secondary pathways will keep students motivated to graduate from high school.

Grade 12 Graduation Rate
(Compared to the Number of Students in Grade 9 Three Years Earlier)



* For the school year ending June 30th

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Education

STUDENTS FEELING SAFE

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The percentage of grade 8 students reporting that they feel safe is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within the core business area, "Safe Learning Environment."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

This measure tells us the percentage of grade 8 students reporting that they agree with the statement "I feel safe from personal harm," in the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (APEF) survey.

It is important that students feel safe while at school. This measure is a proxy of how safe students feel.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The survey was conducted in the spring of 2002 by the Departments of Education throughout Atlantic Canada, with the assistance of APEF, the sponsor of the research. The results of the survey indicate that across Atlantic Canada, marginally less students agree with the statement "I feel safe from personal harm." On an Atlantic Canada basis, this has decreased by one percent of the grade 8 population. Nova Scotia has experienced a growth of three percent in the number of students who agree with the statement.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The results of the latest survey will be used as baseline data and will help determine future direction.

Grade 8 Quality of Life Survey
"I feel safe from personal harm,"

	1995-96	2001-02
Nova Scotia	64	67
Atlantic Canada	69	68

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION SAFETY GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The percentage of schools implementing the *Physical Education Safety Guidelines* is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within the core business area, "Safe Learning Environment."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The measure tells us what percentage of schools across the province have implemented the new *Physical Education Safety Guidelines*.

Physical Education Safety Guidelines have been developed for implementation during the 2002-03 school year. It is important that all schools implement these guidelines.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The *Physical Education Safety Guidelines* are to implemented in the 2002-03 school year.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target was that 100% of the schools will have implemented the guidelines during the 2002-03 school year. This target has been achieved.

SCIENCE SAFETY GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The percentage of schools implementing the *Science Safety Guidelines* is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Safe Learning Environment."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The measure tells us what percentage of schools across the province have implemented the new *Science Safety Guidelines*.

Science Safety Guidelines are being developed for implementation during the 2002-03 school year. It is important that all schools implement these guidelines.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The *Science Safety Guidelines* were completed in final draft format in the 2002-03 school year. This guidelines were produced in consultation with Senior Management of Nova Scotia School boards and are pending a legal review, before being implemented.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target is that 100% of the schools will have implemented the guidelines during the 2003-04 school year, after legal review is completed.

CIGARETTE USE

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. Cigarette use is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Healthy Students."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

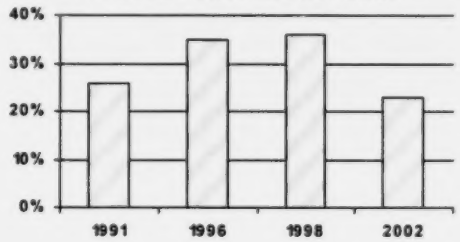
The measure tells us the percentage of students in grades 7, 9, 10 and 12, that have used cigarettes at least once in the past year.

The Department is undertaking a number of initiatives to help reduce the overall rate of cigarette use among students. Although cigarette use is influenced by several factors, it is hoped that the decision to use cigarettes can be influenced by the education system.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002, 23% of students in grades 7, 9, 10 and 12 reported using cigarettes at least once in the past year. This is down from 36.1% in 1998. This is a reversal of the trends that showed that the percentage of students using cigarettes has been increasing over the last seven years.

Cigarette Use Among Students At Least Once in Past Year



Source: Nova Scotia (NS) Department of Health, NS Student Drug Use 1996: Highlights Report; and NS Department of Health and Dalhousie University, NS Student Drug Use 1998: Technical Report. NS Student Drug Use 2002: Highlights Report

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

New health curriculum (Grade 7) and curriculum resources are set to be implemented that include strong tobacco education components. *Smoke free for life* curriculum resource will be available for grade P to grade 9.

P-12 Computer Ratio

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The P-12 computer ratio is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Accessibility."

What does this measure tell us?

There are three measures that can be included for this item. The first reports the ratio of total students to total computers. The second reports the ratio of total students to current computers, where current computers are defined as those computers with 200 MHZ or better (Note that the availability of current computers will enable students to effectively use current software). The last measure reports the number of classrooms with three or more current computers.

The Information Economy Initiative (IEI) Extension has provided 1000 new computers to schools throughout Nova Scotia. Computers are also provided to schools through the Technology Recycling Program, a private-public partnership that refurbishes used computer equipment for distribution to schools throughout Nova Scotia. These computers support student learning and achievement in the Nova Scotia Public School Program and help prepare students to function and compete in today's labour market where technology and communications are so important.

Where are we now?

As of March 31, 2003, there were 5.1 students for every computer, and 6.7 students for every computer with 200 MHZ or better. A total of 2111 classrooms had three or more current computers.

P-12 Computer Ratio and Number of Classes with Three or More Computers

	2002	2003
Ratio of Total Students to Total Computers	6.2	5.1
Ratio of Total Students to Current Computers	9.3	6.7
Number of Classrooms with 3 or More Current Computers	2088	2111

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Education, March 31 figures.

Where do we want to go/be in the future?

Our target for 2005-06 is a ratio of 5 to 1, in terms of total students to total computers. Both the IEI and the Technology Recycling Program will help provide computers to our schools.

NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF BLAC REPORT THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The number of recommendations of the BLAC Report that have been implemented is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Responsive and Flexible Learning Environment."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

This measure tracks the number of recommendations that have been implemented to date. Note that it does not indicate which recommendations are more important than others.

The Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) Report on Education was completed in 1994. The report is intended to assist government in creating an education system which is equitable, accessible and inclusive for all learners. Recommendations in the report encompasses all education from pre-school through to post-secondary education, as well as adult education. The Department has reviewed the status of the BLAC Report and has developed a strategy for the full implementation of the recommendations.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

As of 2001, 13 of the 30 recommendations have been implemented.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

It is expected that by 2005, 20 of the 30 recommendations will have been implemented.

PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS IN-SERVICING THE RACIAL EQUITY POLICY

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The percentage of schools, in-servicing the Racial Equity Policy is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Responsive and Flexible Learning Environment."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

This measure is the percentage of schools in-servicing the new Racial Equity Policy.

It is important that school staff receive in-servicing of the Racial Equity Policy to ensure its proper implementation and understanding.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Racial Equity Policy has been completed and portions have been implemented in 2002-03. The bias evaluation tool has been implemented by the Department of Education and School Boards, and procedures are in place for approving major resources such as books. Financial assistance in the form of grants has been provided to support racial equity policy and a working committee is managing the implementation of this.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target is that 100% of the schools will have in-serviced staff on the Racial Equity Policy by the end of the 2004-05 school year.

REPORTING OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS

One of the Department's core business areas is P-12 Education. The reporting of assessment results is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Improved Accountability/Reporting of Results."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

One of the commitments of Government was to provide improved student reporting to parents. This will enable parents to have accurate, regular information about their children's progress. The Department is reporting on these results through the *Minister's Report to Parents*. This measure indicates whether or not this report was produced and released so parents have access to the information.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The second *Minister's Report to Parents*: *Student Assessment Results for Nova Scotia* was released in the winter of 2003. The *Minister's Report to Parents* contains assessment results for language arts, mathematics and science in provincial, national, and international tests. The report can be found on the Program of Learning Assessment in Nova Scotia website: http://plans.ednet.ns.ca.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The *Minister's Report to Parents* will be produced and released annually.

NOVA SCOTIANS WITH POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

One of the Department's core business areas is Higher Education and Adult Learning. The percentage of Nova Scotians with post-secondary education is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Better Educated Nova Scotians."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

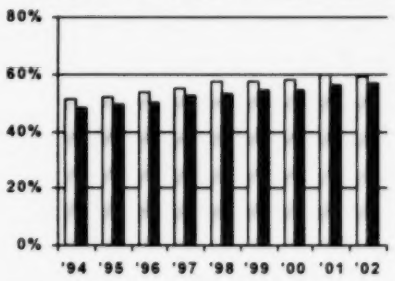
This measure shows the percentage of Nova Scotians aged 25-54 that have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

Education is a key variable in improved employment prospects and higher earnings. The attainment of post-secondary education prepares Nova Scotians for the labour market. Research conducted by the federal government suggests that 70% of new jobs will require some form of post-secondary education.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002, 59.1% of Nova Scotians aged 25-54 had a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, down from 59.9% in 2001. The percentage of Nova Scotians 25-54 with post-secondary education is higher than that for Canada.

Percent of Nova Scotians and Canadians, 25-54, with a Post-Secondary Education



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target is to have this percentage continue to increase. Several initiatives are being undertaken to help with access to post-secondary education, these include the development of a discussion paper for post-secondary education focusing on future size and capacity, quality and accountability; increased funding to the NSCC; ensuring that education and training opportunities at the NSCC are linked to economic opportunities in the province; and a new designation policy for post-secondary institutions.

NUMBER OF DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES, AND DEGREES ISSUED BY NOVA SCOTIA INSTITUTIONS

One of the Department's core business areas is Higher Education and Adult Learning. The number of diplomas, certificates, and degrees issued by Nova Scotian institutions is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Better Educated Nova Scotians."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

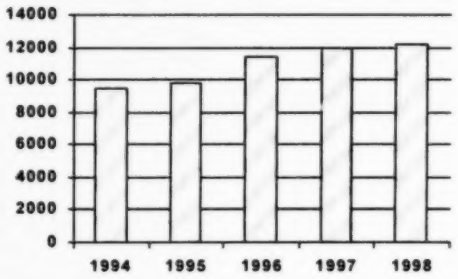
This measure reports the number of diplomas, certificates, and degrees issued by Nova Scotian institutions. It includes community college diplomas, undergraduate level diplomas and certificates, graduate level diplomas and certificates, bachelor's and first professional degrees, Master's degrees and earned doctorates.

This measure indicates the capacity and ability of Nova Scotia institutions to provide post-secondary education.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 1998, Nova Scotian institutions issued 12,124 diplomas, certificates and degrees. The number issued has increased from 1994 to 1998.

# of Diplomas, Certificates, and Degrees Issued by Nova Scotia Institutions



Source: Education in Canada, 2000, Statistics Canada Cat. #81-229

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target is to have this number continue to increase. Initiatives undertaken in 2001-02 to support this increase included increased funding for the Nova Scotia Community College and the development of the Nova Scotia Advisory Board on Colleges and Universities' discussion paper on post-secondary education. The discussion paper focuses on future size and capacity, quality and accountability in the post-secondary education system.

PARTICIPATION IN THE NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL OF ADULT LEARNING

One of the Department's core business areas is Higher Education and Adult Learning. Participation in the Nova Scotia School of Adult Learning is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Better Educated Nova Scotians."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The measure provides data on the number of Nova Scotians participating in literacy and upgrading programs through the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning. The Nova Scotia School of Adult Learning supports the delivery of adult education programs that allow Nova Scotians to improve their literacy skills and earn credits toward the Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma for Adults.

Nova Scotians need opportunities to continue to learn throughout their lives. As the labour market changes Nova Scotians need to develop new skills, improve their literacy, and upgrade existing skills. It is not enough just to provide access to programs, we need to ensure that Nova Scotians participate in these programs. This measure is an indication of participation of adults in lifelong learning.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

From September 1, 2001, to June 15, 2002, 3,764 Nova Scotians participated in programs supported through the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Similar to previous intentions the continued and expanded enrolment of more Nova Scotians and their participation in this program is anticipated.

ADULT NOVA SCOTIANS RECEIVING THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DIPLOMA FOR ADULTS

One of the Department's core business areas is Higher Education and Adult Learning. The number of adult Nova Scotians receiving a high school graduation diploma for adults is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Better Educated Nova Scotians."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The measure provides data on the number of adult Nova Scotians receiving the high school graduation diploma for adults.

Nova Scotians need opportunities to continue to learn throughout their lives. As the labour market changes Nova Scotians need to develop new skills, improve their literacy, and upgrade existing skills. The previous measure is an indication of participation in programs; this measure is an indicator of how successful participants and the program are in reaching the participant's goal of receiving a high school graduation diploma for adults.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In June 2002, the first Nova Scotians received the high school graduation diploma for adults, 154 Nova Scotians received the diploma. Note that the data are preliminary and do not reflect the whole school year (September 1-August 31).

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

As 2001-02 is the first year that the new Nova Scotia high school graduation diploma for adults was offered, it is expected that the number of adult Nova Scotians receiving this diploma will increase over time.

PARTICIPATION IN WORKPLACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

One of the Department's core business areas is Skills and Learning. Participation in Workplace Education Programs is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Better Educated Nova Scotians."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The measure provides data on the number of workplaces participating to deliver customized essential skills, workplace and workforce adjustment programs.

To remain competitive in today's global economy it is critical that Nova Scotian have access to skills upgrading. The Department partners with industry and labour through the Workplace Education Initiative to develop customized skills programs for workers.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Over the past three years the number of workplaces participating in the Workplace Education Programs and the number of programs offered have increased.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target is to have these numbers continue to increase.

Participation in Workplace Education Programs

Year	# Workplaces Participating	# Programs Offered	# Participants*
1999-00	31	88	880
2000-01	37	108	1080
2001-02	49	119	1190

*Estimated

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Education

POST-SECONDARY ENROLMENT

One of the Department's core business areas is Higher Education and Adult Learning. Full-time post-secondary enrolment is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area, "Accessibility."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

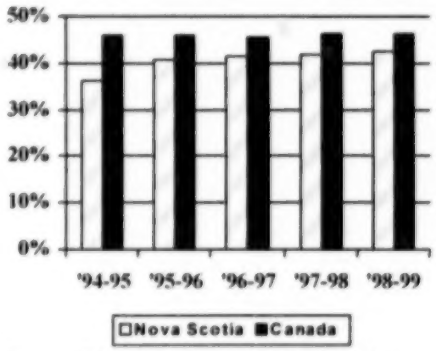
The measure tells us the percentage of Nova Scotians, aged 18-24, that are enrolled in full-time post-secondary programs, such as, community college, and undergraduate and graduate university programs, in Nova Scotia and in other jurisdictions.

Accessibility to post-secondary education is important to have Nova Scotians well prepared to participate in the labour market.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 1998-99, 42% of Nova Scotians aged 18-24 were enrolled in post-secondary education programs. This percentage is increasing over time. Nova Scotia has a lower percentage of 18-24 year-olds enrolled in post-secondary education programs than Canada.

Percentage of 18-24 Age Group Enroled in Post-Secondary Education Programs



Source: Education in Canada, 2000, Statistics Canada Cat. #81-229, and Statistics Canada

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target is to have this percentage continue to increase. Initiatives undertaken in 2002-03 to support this increase included a major commitment for increased funding for the Nova Scotia Community College and the development of the Nova Scotia Advisory Board on Colleges and Universities' discussion paper on post-secondary education. The discussion paper focuses on future size and capacity, quality and accountability in the post-secondary education system.

CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OUTCOME MEASURES

The following measures have not changed:

- Student Achievement Indicator Program
- Nova Scotia Examinations
- High school graduation rate
- P-12 computer ratio
- Participation in workplace education programs
- Students feeling safe
- *Physical Education Safety Guidelines* implementation
- *Science Safety Guidelines* implementation
- Cigarette use
- Number of recommendations of BLAC report that have been implemented
- Percentage of schools in-servicing the Racial Equity Policy
- Reporting of assessment results
- Nova Scotians with post-secondary education
- Number of diplomas, certificates, and degrees issued by Nova Scotia institutions
- Adult Nova Scotians receiving the high school graduation diploma for adults
- Post-secondary enrollment
- Participation in adult education initiatives has been refined to be participation in the Nova Scotia School of Adult Learning

Measures removed for this report due to discontinuance in 2003-04

- Percentage of schools in servicing code of conduct
- Percent of school boards with school board business plans
- Number of family literacy projects sponsored

New measures that will be added in the future as a result of draft 2003-04 Business Plan activities

- Percentage of physically active students in grades 3, 7 and 11.
- Number of hits on interactive website and downloads of resource material
- Number of French curriculum courses in Acadian Schools
- Number of courses implemented to reflect ethnocultural diversity
- Number of certifications issued through the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Program
- Number of Nova Scotians successfully completing GED Tests
- Number of youth participating in discussions in the of issues on the NS Youth Secretariat web site bulletin board
- Number of issues addressed by PSEC and YAC for Nova Scotia Government
- Number of young Nova Scotians participating in career and related employment opportunities